Darul Uloom Zakariyya





To Whom It May Concern

Point 14.3 of the Spy Cables released by your establishment, Al Jazeera, reads: "The Zakariyya Park Madressa in Zakariyya Park in Johannesburg has regular training sessions for South African Muslim students and foreigners in order to keep them ready for a possible Jihad against USA aggression in the Middle East. "

It is with a sense of deep disappointment that it has come to our attention that the reports released by your station have emerged identifying our institution and others as a Jihadist training facility. The reports are wholly untrue, and maliciously so. This allegation was printed on your website under the South African Operational Target Analysis of Iran, whereas our institution is a strictly Sunni institution, who are diametrically opposed to Shiasim and we have no ties to Iran or any country. Ours is a strictly academic institute not unlike any other tertiary institute in our country in that it offers academic tuition to students in the Islamic Sciences. Our institution is a religious one and all students are legal and have valid and proper visas. Students are strongly directed to distance themselves from all politics and anything that could bring the institute or our country into disregard. In the current atmosphere of hate speech and fear mongering, it is especially important that an organization like yours verifies information before disseminating it. We were also not afforded the opportunity to provide a right of response to this article, which is unethical. Also, an article of this nature was printed and published on your website without first verifying it's authenticity.

We therefore demand an apology from your station and also demand that our response be printed and published on your website.

Yours Sincerely

Shabbier Ahmed Saloojee (Moulana) - Principal

